

**PSC SETS LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE IN
LACLEDE GAS COMPANY RATE CASE**

Jefferson City (August 27, 2001)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold two local public hearings on **October 17, 2001**, to receive public comment on a natural gas rate case filed by Laclede Gas Company. The local public hearing schedule appears below.

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

St. Louis

11:30 am

Univ. of Missouri-St. Louis

J.C. Penney/Conference Center Rm. 126

East Campus Drive

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Chesterfield

5:30 pm

PSC St. Louis Office

815 Charter Commons Drive

Suite 100B

An informational session providing neutral information about local public hearing procedures and issues to be considered by the Commission in this case will begin at the above stated time. The actual local public hearing is scheduled to start 30 minutes later.

Local public hearings are designed to give customers of Laclede Gas Company an opportunity to comment on the natural gas rate case before the Commission. In addition, customers may also bring any service-related problems to the Commission's attention.

On May 18, 2001, Laclede Gas Company filed a rate case with the Missouri Public Service Commission seeking to increase natural gas revenues by approximately \$39.8 million a year. According to the Company, Laclede's request would increase a typical residential heating customer's bill by an average of \$4.90 a month.

This rate case before the Commission involves non-gas costs. Non-gas costs are operating and maintenance expenses and a return on investment in plant (such as natural gas mains and service lines that carry natural gas to the customer's home or business). The rates that wholesale suppliers

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charge Laclede Gas Company for natural gas are not regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission and therefore are not a part of this rate case. The Commission does perform a regulatory review to ensure that regulated natural gas companies such as Laclede Gas Company make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

The Commission will hold formal evidentiary hearings in this case starting on December 17, 2001, in the Commission's hearing room which is located in the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, in Jefferson City. These hearings will continue through December 21, 2001 as well as January 3-4, 2002, if necessary.

The local public hearings and formal evidentiary hearings will be held in buildings that meet accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. Any person needing additional accommodations to participate in these hearings should call the Public Service Commission's hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or 1-800-829-7541 (TDD) prior to the hearings.

Laclede Gas Company serves approximately 633,000 natural gas customers in the City of St. Louis as well as the Missouri counties of St. Louis, St. Charles, Butler, Iron, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, St. Francois and Ste. Genevieve.

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Case No. GR-2001-629